



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

September 8, 2008

A public meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was convened and called to order by Chair Naomi Bryant at 5:30 PM, Monday, September 8, 2008 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 16705 East Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

**Call to Order – Roll Call:** Present at roll call were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Commission: Chair Naomi Bryant, Vice Chair Sharon Dennis, Commissioners Fred Bedell, Tom Barberic, Karyn Brown, and Commissioner Ernie Cofrances. Staff members present were Director Mark Mayer, and Susan Gill, Executive Assistant.

**AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

No public present.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 12, 2008 REGULAR MEETING – ACTION ITEM**

Chair Bryant asked if there were any additions or corrections to the May 12 meeting minutes. Chair Bryant then called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12 meeting. Commissioner Bedell made a motion to approve and Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion was made, seconded, and carried 6:0 to approve the minutes as submitted.

**AGENDA ITEM #3: DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE P & R COMMISSION FIELD TRIP**

Director Mayer inquired if the Commissioners would be interested in visiting any of the newer Park and Recreation facilities in the Valley as suggested by Commissioner Bedell. Suggestions included the following:

- Outstanding tennis facility
- Skate Parks
- Aquatic facility
- Hiking opportunities

Director Mayer indicated he would put together some information for the Commission to review at the October 13 meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #4: 2008-2009 BUDGET UPDATE**

Director Mayer gave a brief overview of the budget process that was utilized this year and indicated that with the new Town Manager, the Commissions may be more involved in the budget process. Director Mayer also indicated that the fiscal year 09/10 budget process may begin as early as November or December this year. Additional items mentioned included the following:

- Funding of Capital Projects may be more difficult to accomplish with potential budget constraints.
- Desert Vista Park (twelve acres) improvements will be finishing up.
- Fountain Park, the largest park site with sixty-six acres, has about one million dollars of improvements left to be done which includes signage, east side parking lot and smaller additional improvements
- Golden Eagle Park has fifteen acres and is fully developed
- Four Peaks Neighborhood Park is fifteen acres and will be the last to be finished
- With all parks completely finished attention could be turned to the need for two additional neighborhood parks and the two school sites
- Future Ellman park sites of approximately forty plus acres and amenities
- With the completion of all park sites the Town will be closer to meeting the minimum guidelines for both community parks and neighborhood parks

**AGENDA ITEM #5: 2008-2009 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

Director Mayer updated the Commissioners on the project improvements at Desert Vista Neighborhood Park, which included the following:

- Athletic field lights are in but wiring has not been pulled yet.
- Playground equipment is being installed.
- Trash cans and picnic tables have been received and assembled.
- Sidewalks are in.
- A.D.O.G. contributed money for the re-covering of existing shade structures.
- Ramadas and new shade structures are on order with a planned installation/completion date in October.

Director Mayer informed the Commissioners that a Public Meeting was held on September 2, 2008 to update the public on the remaining timeline for project completion of the Desert Vista Park improvements including the fall over-seeding schedule, and to address concerns from dog park users which included the following:

- Drainage issues
- Additional handicapped parking
- Request for extended hours
- Excessive barking of dogs

Director Mayer also updated the Commission on the Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden site parking lot improvements. Comments included;

- Project is divided between two vendors
  - Excavation of the parking lot site, and off-site paving for a deceleration lane
  - On-site paving of parking lot
- This budgeted expenditure requires Council approval and is on their agenda for September 18th
- Project completion is planned for late October
- Re-dedication/re-opening of the Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden is tentatively scheduled for November

#### **AGENDA ITEM #6: UPDATE ON ELLMAN PROPERTY**

Director Mayer advised the Commissioners that a petition was filed by some concerned citizens to stop the development of the State Trust Land purchased by the Ellman Company. The petition was turned down by the Lower Court, and appealed to the Appellate Court. The Ellman Company countered and filed a suit to protest the validity of information provided to the signatories on the petition. These actions have delayed the development of the property.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #7: 4TH QUARTER VANDALISM UPDATE**

A copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Park Vandalism Report was sent to the Commissioners in August. Director Mayer mentioned that the number of incidents has declined, but the cost per incident has increased. Brief discussion followed regarding the theft of flags at Fountain Park, the theft of the security cameras at Four Peaks Park, and the accumulative damage done by “pegs” on bikes at Golden Eagle Park over previous years prior to the opening of the Skate Park.

Director Mayer mentioned that the MCSO believes a gang from the Fort McDowell Reservation is responsible for the theft of the cameras at Four Peaks Park and advised the Commissioners that the surveillance cameras at Golden Eagle Park documented a person in a small white vehicle driving over the sidewalk onto the grassy area of the park, damaging the turf by spinning the vehicles wheels and doing “donuts”. Within twenty minutes MCSO had the vehicle description and license number and were able to apprehend the perpetrator.

Suggestions for curbing additional acts of vandalism included the following:

- Hire a part-time park Ranger to patrol the parks on a rotating schedule
- Proactive articles in the newspaper regarding the costs associated with acts of vandalism
- Education in the High School
- Ask the Sheriff’s Posse to patrol

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8: UPDATE ON FOUNTAIN HILLS CULTURAL AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Chair Bryant informed the Commissioners that the next meeting would be in October and she would provide us an update at that time.

Director Mayer advised the Commissioners that the Town Council had expressed some concerns to the Public Art Committee about the way public art was being presented to them. In addition there were some concerns raised by the public regarding funding for installation of art pieces. Director Mayer added that Council had directed him to meet with the various stakeholders and develop a proposal and guidelines that outlines the process for the acceptance of public art. Director Mayer

mentioned that he has asked Parks and Recreation Chair, Naomi Bryant, Jerry Gorrell, Chair of the Community Center Advisory Commission, Jerry Miles and Marti Brown, from the Public Art group, and Town Finance Director, Julie Ghetty, to participate in a September 18 meeting.

Some discussion followed regarding cohesiveness of art pieces, the ability to have input on the process of obtaining art, the possibility of “lag” time between purchasing pieces, and input on placement of art pieces.

Director Mayer mentioned that a bronze piece entitled “*Freedom*”, which portrays an Eagle and eaglets in a nest, is still pending with the Council. Additionally, three African stone sculpture pieces are pending approval for eventual placement at Fountain Park. Director Mayer stated that he would bring a Public Arts site map of Fountain Park to the next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM #9: TOWN COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE**

Director Mayer provided an overview of the following items scheduled for the September 18 council meeting:

- Approval of two Construction Agreements for the Fountain Hills Desert Botanical Garden parking lot site improvements
- Approval of the Second Amendment to the Hiking Agreement between MCO and the Town

**AGENDA ITEM #10: ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.**

Chair Bryant called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bedell moved to adjourn; Commissioner Barberic seconded, and the motion carried 6:0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2008.

**Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation Commission**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Naomi Bryant, Chair

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark C. Mayer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Gill, Executive Assistant

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting held on March 10, 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Naomi Bryant, Chair